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Book Reviews.

The Reasonable Christ. A Series of Studies. By GEORGE E. MERRILL.
Boston: Silver, Burdett & Company, 1893.

This book is a series of fourteen studies upon the different periods and aspects of Christ's life. As stated in the preface, but one purpose animates the volume: to present the Christ of the gospels as One who satisfies the reason as well as the heart of believers. It does not, therefore, endeavor to expound the grounds of belief, but simply to fix the mind of the reader on Christ as being his own vindication and as rationally explaining the claims of Christianity. Its simple story of Christ's life as reasonable in purpose and spirit forms an effective background for the presentation of the supernatural and miraculous in Christianity. Its moral is very clear, that the claims of miraculous power could not appear unreasonable in a life that was otherwise so reasonable and convincing. As being, thus, half expository and half apologetic, the book furnishes much interesting material for thought.

C. E. W.

Syntax of the Moods and Tenses in New Testament Greek. By ERNEST DE WITT BURTON, Professor in the University of Chicago. Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged. Chicago: 1893. pp. 22 and 215. Price, \$1.50.

The language of the New Testament has a peculiar fascination and aggravation for the classical scholar. Inasmuch as it is Greek, he cannot consider it alien to his studies, but its irregularities and solecisms make him desire to correct and reduce all to rule as he would an exercise in Greek composition. Certainly the New Testament writers did not use Greek elegantly. They made the mistakes natural to those who acquire a language very unlike their own from men who speak various dialects and who belong to the unlettered class of the community. Some of us know what blunders an American is likely to commit in his use and misuse of German prepositions and other particles. The Septuagint translation of the Old Testament is full of such confusions, which we can well understand. For example, our expression *to fight with one* is ambiguous; it may mean either to fight against him or on his side; but the Greek is properly unambiguous. In the Septuagint, however, the corresponding ambiguity of the Hebrew is often transferred to the Greek. The language of the New Testament is not so near the classical norm as might be thought by those who notice only the classical parallels adduced for this and that word and construction. Many of these so-called parallels have to be

sought in remote corners of Greek literature; they are exceptional rather than regular.

To bring New Testament Greek under scientific rules, is no slight problem. Two German grammars—those of Winer and Buttmann—admirably translated by Professor Thayer, then of Andover, but now of Harvard, have done much to provide a sound basis for exegesis. We welcome in the book before us a new work on one (and the most important) part of this field; the syntax of the cases presents fewer difficulties. The author makes clear in his preface the limitations of his plan. "It is designed to assist English-speaking students in the task of translating the Greek New Testament into English forms of thought and expression. . . . The book is written, therefore, in the interest not of historical but of exegetical grammar, not of philology as such, but of philology as an auxiliary of interpretation." Thus the most elaborate article of the work is that which treats of the different methods of dealing with indirect discourse in Greek and English—intended to clear the minds of not very advanced students and to prepare for exact translations. A similar article deals with the translation of the Greek aorist.

The professional philologist will regret that the historical method has not been followed more freely, but he has no right to complain since the author does not undertake to provide for him. Occasionally statistics are given, as in § 407, and a bit of historical grammar, as in § 88 and § 405; but too often the reader finds only a general statement that such a construction is "rare" or "frequent" or "found in a few instances," and references to the grammars of Goodwin or Hadley for the Attic usage. The reviewer here is obliged to believe that the author erred. With more statistics and definite information, the book would have had for the careful student an increased value out of all proportion to the additional labor of the author or the extra cost of printing. If the work is intended simply to assist in the task of translating, it need not have been so elaborate and full. If this practical limit is to be exceeded, the book should satisfy the scientific wants of philological scholars. Disputed passages like the use of the aorist participle in connection with Christ's preaching to the "Spirits in Prison" in general are not discussed. The author shows good judgment in avoiding the strict classicism of Meyer's commentary, and in recognizing the tendencies of the language which have been fulfilled in the Modern Greek. But the reference in § 223 to Professor Jebb's essay on this subject is insufficient. The main facts should have been stated. The references to grammatical works and articles are good and full on some subjects, but in his desire to be concise the author has left his work in this respect a trifle uneven.

The author evidently has made the problems of the book his own, and here publishes in condensed form the results of careful, scholarly thought and study as well as pedagogical experience. His treatment of the participle seems particularly independent. His adoption of an unfamiliar nomenclature for the division of participles, however, seems unfortunate. The general accept-

ance of the proposed system is extremely improbable, and the efforts necessary to render this nomenclature familiar to those who have been trained to use ordinary grammars, will be much greater than the advantage gained.

The form of the book is pleasant. Most students will find it more easily intelligible than the works of Buttmann and Winer, and its size will not frighten them. The proof-reading is good. A curious slip (to my mind) is the use of *shall* for *will*, repeated more than once in the discussion of indirect discourse. In ordinary good usage, *I shall go* becomes in indirect discourse *he says he will go*; while here it is turned into *he says he shall go*. Must we abandon the distinction between *shall* and *will*?

American scholars have done a good work in the grammatical study of Greek. No English scholars in Greek syntax can be matched with our Professor Goodwin and Professor Gildersleeve, while Goodwin's Moods and Tenses and Grammar and the Hadley-Allen Grammar are the chief authorities on this subject in Great Britain. Professor Thayer's translation of Winer and Buttmann are most serviceable, and the book before us is a distinct contribution to the same end of exact grammatical study, without which all exegesis rests on a rotten foundation.

T. D. S.

Calwer Bibel-Lexicon. Redigiert von Dekan Lic. Th. Paul Zeller. Zweite durchgesehene Auflage.

Although this Bible Dictionary has found many readers in Germany, as is evidenced by the exhaustion of the first edition within ten years, it is comparatively unknown elsewhere. It is probably safe to say that many scholars outside of the fatherland are all but ignorant of its existence. Yet this neglect is undeserved, for the work, though of a distinctly popular type, has been carefully compiled, and contains a large number of articles by writers of repute which well deserve to be more widely read. Many of the notes on natural history bear the name of Dr. Fraas, one of the contributors to Riehm. The many articles on subjects directly or indirectly connected with Assyriology are from the pen of Professor Friedrich Delitzsch, of Breslau, and constitute one of the most interesting and useful features of the volume. Whilst it would be rash to pronounce them superior to the splendid series of articles by Schrader in Riehm, they unquestionably merit attention even from those familiar with the latter. The article on Nimrod mentions with approval the reading of the name of the hero of the Babylonian epic as "Gilgames" (according to Professor Delitzsch originally "Gibilgames"), which is strangely ignored in the corresponding article in the second edition of Riehm. The articles on Antichrist, the Acts of the Apostles, and the Epistles to the Corinthians, Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians, are by Godet. Orelli has dealt with the Epistle to the Hebrews, the Psalter, and the Books of Daniel and Zechariah, as well as with Hebrew Poetry, Offerings, the Sabbath, and the lives of the leading patriarchs. Professor Oettli, of